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CUSTOMER NUMBER 25267

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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Metz et al.
Serial No.: 10/801,184
Filed: March 16, 2004
Title: GAP FILLER FOR BED
Atty. Docket: 8266-1278
Group: Unknown
Examiner: Unknown

Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

on July 22, 2004

Signature: *Norman J. Hedges*

Norman J. Hedges

Dated: July 22, 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This statement is filed in the application identified above pursuant to 37 CRR §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. Applicant calls attention to the art references within the knowledge of applicant and its attorney which are listed on the attached PTO Form 1449. No representation is intended that a complete search has been made or that no better art references are available. The filing of this statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to the patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56(b).

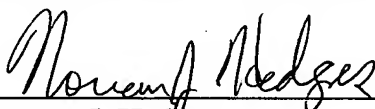
REMARKS

Copies of cited U.S. Patents and U.S. Patent application publications are not provided in accordance to the waiver of the requirements under 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2)(i) as announced in the August 5, 2003 *Official Gazette*. Copies of foreign patent references FR 1 450 817, GB 1 466 080, GB 2 213 303 A, and non-patent reference *Catalog: "A HILL-ROM SOLUTION: MED-SURG BED ACCESSORIES,"* Hill-Rom, 1997, were previously cited to and submitted to the Office in prior application 09/528,372, filed on March 17, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,427,264, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Therefore, copies of these cited patents and publications are not being supplied with this Information Disclosure Statement. Copies of foreign patent references WO 81/01792, EP 0 037 063 A2, NL 8 300 814, GB 2 163 951 A, GB 2 229 407, FR 2 680 955, GB 2 267 430 A, GB 2 284 147 A, WO 98/17153, DE 199 00 602 C, and non-patent reference "*Paramont Bed*" brochure in Japanese, 63 pages, are provided herewith.

None of the art cited on the attached PTO Form 1449 is believed to disclose or suggest the invention recited in the claims of the above-identified application. It is therefore believed that the claimed invention is patentably distinguishable over these references.

Respectfully submitted,

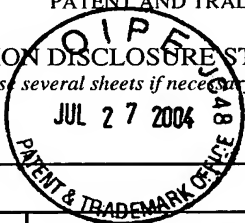
BOSE McKINNEY & EVANS LLP



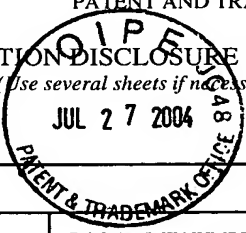
Norman J. Hedges

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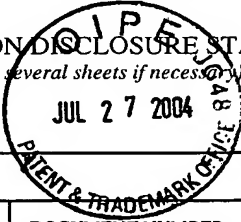
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FORM PTO-1449		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 8266-1278		SERIAL NO. 10/801,184	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>				APPLICANT Metz et al.			
				FILING DATE March 16, 2004		GROUP Unknown	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL	AA	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	AA	421,656	2/18/1890	Blanken, C.H.			
	AB	993,119	5/23/1911	Stannard, P.D.			
	AC	1,398,203	11/22/1921	Schmidt			
	AD	1,682,394	8/28/1928	Meutsch			
	AE	1,885,974	11/1/1932	Winn			
	AF	2,136,088	11/8/1938	Stevens, R.M. Sr.			
	AG	2,164,484	7/4/1939	Wolfe			
	AH	2,254,466	9/2/1941	Albert, L.			
	AI	2,281,209	4/28/1942	Smith			
	AJ	2,452,366	10/26/1948	Freund			
	AK	2,556,591	6/12/1951	Loxley			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
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	AL	FR 1 450 817	Aug. 1966	France			
	AM	GB 1 466 080	Mar. 1977	UK			
	AN	WO 81/01792	7/9/1981	WO			
	AO	EP 0 037 063 A2	10/7/1981	Europe			
	AP	NL 8 300 814	10/1/1984	Netherlands			
	AQ	GB 2 163 951 A	3/12/1986	UK			
OTHER REFERENCES <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i>							
	AR	Catalog: "A HILL-ROM SOLUTION: MED-SURG BED ACCESSORIES," Hill-Rom, 1997					
	AS	"Paramount Bed" brochure in Japanese; 63 pages					
	AT						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	BA	2,564,083	8/14/1951	Stechert			
	BB	2,587,291	2/26/1952	Rochers			
	BC	2,605,151	7/29/1952	Shampaine			
	BD	2,710,976	6/21/1955	Martensen, N.M.			
	BE	2,722,017	11/1/1955	Burst et al.			
	BF	2,766,463	10/16/1956	Bendersky			
	BG	2,817,854	12/31/1957	Pratt			
	BH	2,817,855	12/31/1957	Pratt			
	BI	2,869,614	1/20/1959	Wamsley			
	BJ	2,951,252	9/6/1960	Roche, M.E.			
	BK	2,979,738	7/2/1958	Goldberg			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
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	BL	GB 2 229 407	Oct. 1990	UK			
	BM	FR 2 680 955	3/12/1993	France			
	BN	GB 2 267 430 A	8/12/1993	UK			
	BO	GB 2 284 147 A	5/31/1995	UK			
	BP	GB 2 313 303 A	11/26/1997	UK			
	BQ	WO 98/17153	4/30/1998	PCT			
OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
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	BS						
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	CA	3,010,121	11/28/1961	Breach			
	CB	3,018,492	1/30/1962	Rosen, N.			
	CC	3,021,534	2/20/1962	Hausted			
	CD	3,053,568	9/11/1962	Miller			
	CE	3,055,020	9/25/1962	Mann			
	CF	3,099,440	7/30/1963	Burzlauff			
	CG	3,112,500	12/3/1963	MacDonald			
	CH	3,138,805	6/30/1964	Piazza			
	CI	3,148,387	9/15/1964	Sarnie et al.			
	CJ	3,195,151	7/20/1965	Boyer			
	CK	3,210,779	10/12/1965	Herbold			
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	CL	WO 99/15126	4/1/1999	WO			
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	DA	3,220,021	11/30/1965	Nelson			
	DB	3,220,022	11/30/1965	Nelson			
	DC	3,233,255	2/8/1966	Propst			
	DD	3,239,853	3/15/1966	MacDonald			
	DE	3,249,387	5/3/1966	Pivacek			
	DF	3,256,533	6/21/1966	Michelsen			
	DG	3,262,133	7/26/1966	Beitzel			
	DH	3,266,545	8/16/1966	Kruissink, J.W.			
	DI	3,309,717	3/21/1967	Black			
	DJ	3,321,779	5/30/1967	Kaufman et al.			
	DK	3,344,445	10/3/1967	Crawford			
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*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPLICABLE
	EA	3,351,962	11/14/1967	Dodrill et al.			
	EB	3,384,147	5/31/1995	Ferris			
	EC	3,406,772	10/22/1968	Ahrent et al.			
	ED	3,456,269	7/22/1969	Goodman			
	EE	3,486,176	12/30/1969	Murcott			
	EF	3,585,659	6/22/1971	Burst et al.			
	EG	3,593,350	7/20/1971	Knight et. al.			
	EH	3,610,685	10/5/1971	Lay, Ralph B.			
	EI	3,614,795	10/26/1971	Agnew			
	EJ	3,619,824	11/16/1971	Doyle, M.J.			
	EK	3,624,847	12/7/1971	Murcott et al.			
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FA	3,640,566	2/8/1972	Hodge				
FB	3,735,432	5/29/1973	Kreten et al.				
FC	3,742,530	7/3/1973	Clark				
FD	3,823,428	7/16/1974	Whyte				
FE	3,845,511	11/5/1974	Benoit et al.				
FF	3,851,345	12/3/1974	Benoit et al.				
FG	3,865,434	2/11/1975	Sully				
FH	3,877,090	4/15/1975	Schutz				
FI	3,893,197	7/8/1975	Ricke				
FJ	3,897,973	8/5/1975	Long et al.				
FK	3,905,591	9/16/1975	Schorr et. al.				

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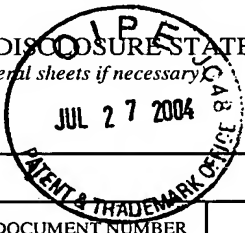
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	GA	3,916,461	11/4/1975	Kerstholt			
	GB	3,932,903	1/20/1976	Adams et al.			
	GC	3,971,083	7/27/1976	Peterson			
	GD	4,106,138	8/15/1978	Murphy			
	GE	4,127,906	12/5/1978	Zur			
	GF	4,139,917	2/20/1979	Fenwick			
	GG	4,168,099	9/18/1979	Jacobs et al.			
	GH	4,183,015	1/8/1980	Drew et al.			
	GI	4,186,456	2/5/1980	Huempfer			
	GJ	4,214,326	7/29/1980	Spann			
	GK	4,215,446	8/5/1980	Mahoney			

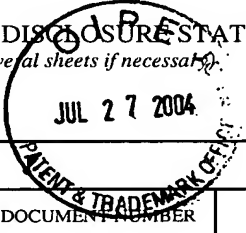
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	HA	4,232,415	11/11/1980	Webber			
	HB	4,240,169	12/23/1980	Roos			
	HC	4,258,445	3/31/1981	Zur			
	HD	4,312,500	1/26/1982	Janssen			
	HE	4,336,621	6/29/1982	Schwartz et al.			
	HF	4,370,765	2/1/1983	Webber			
	HG	4,409,695	10/18/1983	Johnston et al.			
	HH	4,439,880	4/3/1984	Kocelik et al.			
	HI	4,453,732	6/12/1984	Assanah et al.			
	HJ	4,484,367	11/27/1984	Jenkins, Betty S.			
	HK	4,491,993	1/8/1985	Santo			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
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	IA	4,557,471	12/10/1985	Pazzini			
	IB	4,607,402	8/26/1986	Pollard			
	IC	4,612,679	9/23/1986	Mitchell			
	ID	4,653,129	3/31/1987	Kuck et al.			
	IE	4,654,903	4/7/1987	Chubb et al.			
	IF	4,670,923	6/19/1987	Gabriel et al.			
	IG	4,672,698	6/16/1987	Sands			
	IH	4,675,926	6/30/1987	Limdbloom et al.			
	II	4,676,687	6/30/1987	Koffler			
	IJ	4,685,159	8/11/1987	Oetiker			
	IK	4,704,750	11/10/1987	Wheelock			
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JA	4,710,049	12/10/1987	Chang				
JB	4,710,992	12/8/1987	Falwell et al.				
JC	4,745,647	5/24/1988	Goodwin				
JD	4,747,171	5/31/1988	Einsele et al.				
JE	4,751,754	6/21/1988	Bailey et al.				
JF	4,757,564	7/19/1988	Goodale				
JG	4,767,419	8/30/1988	Fattore				
JH	4,768,249	9/6/1988	Goodwin				
JI	4,783,864	11/15/1988	Turner				
JJ	4,799,277	1/24/1989	Goodale				
JK	4,800,600	1/31/1989	Baum				

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KA	4,827,545	5/9/1989	Arp				
KB	4,839,933	6/20/1989	Plewright et al.				
KC	4,847,929	7/28/1989	Pupovic				
KD	4,858,260	8/22/1989	Failor et al.				
KE	4,862,529	9/5/1989	Peck				
KF	4,862,530	9/5/1989	Chen				
KG	4,872,228	10/10/1989	Bishop				
KH	4,873,734	10/17/1989	Pollard				
KI	4,894,876	1/23/1990	Fenwick				
KJ	4,941,221	7/17/1990	Kanzler				
KK	4,944,055	7/31/1990	Shainfeld				

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION		
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KL							
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LA	4,974,905	12/4/1990	Davis				
LB	4,985,946	1/22/1991	Foster et. al.				
LC	4,991,244	2/12/1991	Bishop				
LD	4,993,089	2/19/1991	Solomon et al.				
LE	4,998,310	3/12/1991	Olson				
LF	5,010,611	4/30/1991	Mallett				
LG	5,035,014	7/30/1991	Blanchard, Frederick W.				
LH	5,040,253	8/20/1991	Cheng				
LI	5,044,025	9/3/1991	Hunsinger et al.				
LJ	5,060,327	10/29/1991	Celestina et al.				
LK	5,072,463	12/17/1991	Willis				

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LL							
LM							
LN							
LO							
LP							
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OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>				APPLICANT Metz et al.			
				FILING DATE March 16, 2004		GROUP Unknown	

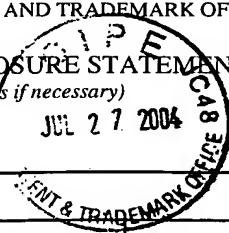
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	MA	5,077,843	1/7/1992	Foster et al.			
	MB	5,083,332	1/28/1992	Foster et al.			
	MC	5,083,334	1/28/1992	Huck et al.			
	MD	5,084,925	2/4/1992	Cook			
	ME	5,097,550	3/24/1992	Marra, Jr.			
	MF	5,111,542	5/12/1992	Farley			
	MG	5,129,117	7/14/1992	Celestina et al.			
	MH	5,175,897	6/5/1993	Marra, Jr.			
	MI	5,179,744	1/19/1993	Foster et al.			
	MJ	5,191,663	3/9/1993	Holder et al.			
	MK	5,193,633	3/16/1993	Ezenwa			

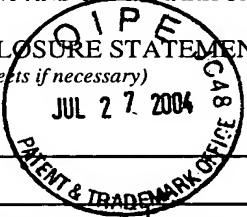
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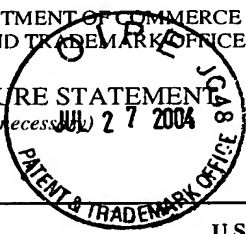
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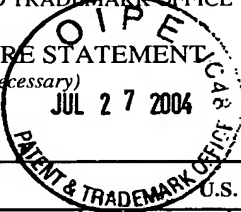
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>				APPLICANT Metz et al.			
				FILING DATE March 16, 2004		GROUP Unknown	
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	NA	5,197,156	3/30/1993	Stryker et al.			
	NB	5,205,004	4/27/1993	Hayes et al.			
	NC	5,216,768	6/8/1993	Bodine et al.			
	ND	5,230,113	7/27/1993	Foster et al.			
	NE	5,279,010	1/18/1994	Ferrand et al.			
	NF	5,365,623	11/22/1994	Springer			
	NG	5,381,571	1/17/1995	Gabhart			
	NH	5,384,927	1/31/1995	Mardero et al.			
	NI	5,408,710	4/25/1995	Garman et al.			
	NJ	5,410,765	5/2/1995	Dicken			
	NK	5,418,988	5/30/1995	Iura			
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	NP						
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>				APPLICANT Metz et al.				
				FILING DATE March 16, 2004		GROUP Unknown		
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	OA	5,421,046	6/6/1995	Vande Streek				
	OB	5,450,641	9/19/1995	Montgomery				
	OC	5,454,126	10/3/1995	Foster et al.				
	OD	5,455,973	10/10/1995	Brumfield et al.				
	OE	5,479,666	1/2/1996	Foster et al.				
	OF	5,481,772	1/19/1996	Glynn et al.				
	OG	5,485,699	1/23/1996	Gabhart,				
	OH	5,524,306	6/11/1996	George				
	OI	5,530,974	7/2/1996	Rains et al.				
	OJ	5,537,699	7/23/1996	Bonaddio et al.				
	OK	5,537,701	7/23/1996	Elliot				
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OTHER REFERENCES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)								
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JUL 27 2004 U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE				FILING DATE March 16, 2004		GROUP Unknown		
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	PA	5,542,135	8/6/1996	Ozrovitz, et al.				
	PB	5,557,813	9/27/1996	Steed et al.				
	PC	5,557,817	9/24/1996	Haddock				
	PD	5,575,025	11/19/1996	Peters				
	PE	5,577,277	11/16/1996	Sundberg et al.				
	PF	5,577,279	11/26/1996	Foster et al.				
	PG	5,636,397	6/10/1997	Boyd et al.				
	PH	5,642,545	7/1/1997	Howard				
	PI	5,642,546	7/1/1997	Shoenhair				
	PJ	5,671,490	9/30/1997	Wu				
	PK	5,678,267	10/21/1997	Kinder				
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				FILING DATE March 16, 2004		GROUP Unknown		
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	QA	5,689,839	11/25/1997	Langanieri et al.				
	QB	5,699,570	12/23/1997	Wilkinson et al.				
	QC	5,701,623	12/30/1997	May				
	QD	5,704,085	1/6/1998	Sabalaskey				
	QE	5,715,548	2/10/1998	Weismiller et al.				
	QF	5,732,423	3/31/1998	Weismiller et al.				
	QG	5,745,937	5/5/1998	Weismiller et al.				
	QH	5,745,939	5/5/1998	Flick et al.				
	QI	5,749,112	5/12/1998	Metzler				
	QJ	5,761,756	6/9/1998	Nowak et al.				
	QK	5,771,506	6/30/1998	Joiner et al.				
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
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	RA	5,781,945	7/21/1998	Scherer et al.			
	RB	5,787,532	8/4/1998	Langer et al.			
	RC	5,794,288	8/18/1998	Soltani et al.			
	RD	5,802,636	9/8/1998	Corbin et al.			
	RE	5,802,646	9/8/1998	Stolpmann et al.			
	RF	5,832,549	11/10/1998	Le Pallec et al.			
	RG	5,864,900	2/2/1999	Landau			
	RH	5,878,452	3/9/1999	Brooke et al.			
	RI	5,910,080	6/8/1999	Selton			
	RJ	5,926,873	7/27/1999	Fountain			
	RK	5,956,787	8/28/1999	James et al.			

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	SA	5,960,497	10/5/1999	Castellino et al.			
	SB	5,987,666	11/23/1999	Zigmont, N. Darlene			
	SC	6,038,721	3/21/2000	Gordon			
	SD	6,058,531	5/9/2000	Carroll			
	SE	6,081,950	7/4/2000	Selton			
	SF	6,085,372	7/11/2000	James et al.			
	SG	6,089,593	7/18/2000	Hanson et al.			
	SH	6,223,369	5/1/2001	Maier et al.			
	SI	6,223,370	5/1/2001	Kluft			
	SJ	6,249,924	6/24/2001	Kluft			
	SK	6,256,822	7/10/2001	Weston et al.			

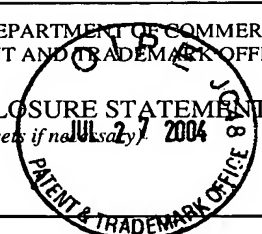
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	TA	6,347,422	2/19/2002	Heavrin			
	TB	6,363,552	4/2/2002	Hornbach et al.			
	TC	6,374,440	4/23/2002	Thim, Jr.			
	TD	6,397,416	6/4/2002	Brooke et al.			
	TE	6,401,277	6/11/2002	Savage et al.			
	TF	6,401,281	6/11/2002	Younge			
	TG	6,427,264	8/6/2002	Metz et. al.			
	TH	6,430,766	8/13/2002	Henley et al.			
	TI	6,615,426	9/9/2003	Risk, Jr.			
	TJ	6,629,326	10/7/2003	Risk, Jr.			
	TK	6,668,399	12/30/2003	Malstaff et al.			

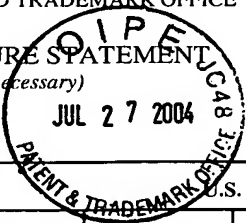
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	UA	6,721,975	4/20/2004	Lemine			
	UB	2001/0044970	11/29/2001	Heavrin			
	UC	2002/0170113	11/21/2002	Metz et al.			
	UD	D276,112	10/30/1984	Ferrell et al.			
	UE	D336,577	6/22/1993	Celestina et al.			
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	UH						
	UI						
	UJ						
	UK						

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	UP							
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OTHER REFERENCES <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i>		
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